

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), commonly referred to as septic systems, treat wastewater and discharge effluent. The use of OWTS can be an effective means of treating and disposing of wastewater; however, improper siting of OWTS and other factors can lead to public health and environmental impacts, including direct human exposure to effluent and degradation of groundwater and surface water quality. In addition, although federal and California laws provide state, regional, and local agencies the authority to protect the state's waters (including drinking water) and public health through the regulation of OWTS discharges, the requirements of the agencies differ, leading to inconsistent regulation throughout the state.

To address these issues, Assembly Bill (AB) 885 (Chapter 781, Statutes of 2000) was approved by the California State Legislature, signed into law in September 2000, and codified as Sections 13290–13291.7, Chapter 4.5, Division 7 of the California Water Code (Appendix A). Under AB 885, the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is required to develop, adopt, and implement statewide regulations or standards for the permitting and operation of OWTS.

Also, in a related but separate action, the State Water Board aims to comply with Section 13269 of the California Water Code. Section 13269 allows the State Water Board or a Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) to waive direct regulatory oversight through waste discharge requirements (a permit) for specific discharges or types of discharges. Historically, the state has waived regulation of discharges from OWTS. Therefore, the State Water Board is proposing to adopt a statewide waiver for OWTS discharges.

This draft environmental impact report (DEIR) evaluates the potential environmental effects of adopting and implementing the proposed statewide regulations and waiver. It has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 15000 et seq.). An EIR is a public information document in which the environmental effects of a project are evaluated, feasible measures to mitigate significant impacts are identified, and alternatives to the project that can reduce or avoid significant impacts are discussed. CEQA defines a “project” as any activity directly undertaken by a public agency that “may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment” (PRC Section 21065). Because adoption of the proposed regulations would influence the installation and operation of OWTS, they have the potential to result in a physical change in the environment and are, therefore, considered a project under CEQA.

1.1 DEFINITION OF THE PROJECT UNDER CEQA

The proposed project under CEQA is the adoption and implementation of the proposed statewide OWTS regulations as required by AB 885 (and the related California Water Code sections, included in Appendix A of this DEIR) and the adoption and implementation of the proposed statewide waiver. Because the proposed waiver is substantially the same as the regulations, hereinafter, when this DEIR refers to the proposed project, it means both the proposed regulations and the proposed waiver.

The proposed regulations would be adopted into Chapter 7, Subdivision 1, Division 4 in Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations and administered by the State Water Board. They would also be incorporated into the water quality control plans (also referred to as basin plans) of all nine Regional Water Boards. The Regional Water Boards would implement these regulations along with those authorized local agencies (ALAs) that would be given authority by the Regional Water Boards to implement and enforce the regulations. See Chapter 2.0, “Background and Project Description,” for a more detailed description of the proposed regulations and the project objectives. The proposed regulations are presented in Appendix B.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

Under CEQA, the lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over the proposed project. The State Water Board is the lead agency under CEQA for this project because of its regulatory authority over water quality in California and, as specified in the legislation, its lead role in developing and adopting the new OWTS regulations and statewide waiver.

1.3 PURPOSE AND FOCUS OF THIS EIR

The purpose of an EIR is to disclose and mitigate impacts of a proposed project and determine feasible alternatives that could reduce those impacts. An EIR does not recommend either approval or denial of a project. An EIR is an informational document used in the planning and decision-making process by the lead agency and responsible and trustee agencies. It assists decision makers in fulfilling CEQA's requirement that they balance the benefits of a proposed project against its environmental effects in deciding whether to carry out a project. If the lead agency decides to carry out a project addressed in an EIR, it prepares findings of facts that discuss the disposition of each of the significant environmental effects addressed in the EIR. If adverse environmental effects are identified as significant and unavoidable, the proposed project still may be approved by the lead agency if it finds that the social, economic, or other benefits of the project outweigh its unavoidable risks. The lead agency would then prepare a statement of overriding considerations, in addition to the findings, that discuss the specific reasons for approving the project, based on information in the EIR and other information in the record.

The overall purpose of this EIR is to fulfill the following CEQA objectives:

- ▶ identify the project's significant environmental effects on the environment,
- ▶ indicate the manner in which these significant effects can be mitigated or avoided,
- ▶ identify alternatives to the project,
- ▶ facilitate public involvement, and
- ▶ foster coordination among various governmental agencies.

This EIR is a program EIR intended to provide information at a general (or programmatic) level of detail on the potential impacts of implementing the proposed project. As described by Section 15168(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, a program EIR is one that may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and that are related (1) geographically; (2) as logical parts in a chain of contemplated actions; (3) in connection with the issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program; or (4) as individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar effects that can be mitigated in similar ways. Because the proposed project involves the adoption and implementation of regulations associated with a statewide program, a program-level EIR is the appropriate framework in which to address the project's environmental impacts. Subsequent, project-level CEQA compliance and environmental analysis at a regional or local level may be required if subsequent actions are proposed that do not fall within the scope of this EIR.

The focus of this DEIR is determining, on a broad scale, the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and identifying mitigation measures for those impacts that may be significant. Additionally, although not required by CEQA, an analysis of fiscal and economic impacts is included in this EIR to assist in the rule-making process that is followed in the adoption of new regulations.

1.4 EIR SCOPING PROCESS

AB 885 requires the State Water Board to develop statewide OWTS standards or regulations in consultation with the California Department of Public Health (DPH), Coalition of California Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH), California Coastal Commission (CCC), counties, cities, and other interested parties. During 2000–2002, the State Water Board held numerous meetings and discussions regarding the development of the

regulations. Participating agencies and stakeholders included the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DPH, CCC, CCDEH, California Onsite Wastewater Association, National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, and academic professionals from university departments. During 2003 and 2004, the stakeholders reviewed and provided input on three different drafts of the regulations.

A Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (NOP) and initial study (IS) (SCH #2005062049) were prepared for the project in 2005 to describe the project and solicit public input on topics to be addressed in this EIR (Appendix C). A 60-day public review period (which exceeded the 30-day period mandated by CEQA) on the NOP began on June 8, 2005, and ended on August 8, 2005. During that period, the public could submit written comments to the State Water Board on the NOP and issues to be evaluated in the EIR. In addition, five public scoping meetings were held to inform agencies and the public about the proposed project and to provide additional opportunities for public comment. These meetings were held between July 14 and 21, 2005, in Riverside, Santa Rosa, Malibu, Sacramento, and Redding.

Hundreds of written and oral comments were submitted during the public review period, including comments supporting the project and comments of concern that implementing the project would hinder future land development, would place an unfair financial burden on landowners required to repair or upgrade their OWTS, and would increase the likelihood of human health impacts and harm to the environment through contamination of groundwater and surface water. A summary of project-related issues that were identified during the stakeholder meetings and the public scoping process is presented in Appendix C.

1.5 ORGANIZATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This DEIR is organized into the following chapters:

- ▶ The Executive Summary summarizes the public review process, provides a brief overview of the project description, and describes the project alternatives. It also includes a table that identifies the significance of the project's environmental impacts before and after mitigation and identifies the mitigation measures proposed to avoid, reduce to less-than-significant levels, or eliminate those impacts.
- ▶ Chapter 1.0, "Introduction," provides an overview of the proposed project and the intent of AB 885, identifies the lead agency, describes the purpose and focus of this DEIR, describes the EIR scoping process, outlines the chapters of this DEIR, explains why certain environmental issue areas are not analyzed in greater detail in Chapter 4.0, and provides information on the public review process for the EIR.
- ▶ Chapter 2.0, "Background and Project Description," describes OWTS siting, design, and operation; distinguishes between conventional and supplemental treatment systems; identifies public health and environmental concerns associated with OWTS; identifies existing OWTS requirements in California; describes AB 885 and the development of the statewide regulations; identifies the project objectives; describes the new statewide AB 885 regulations and how they would be implemented; and identifies areas of controversy and issues to be resolved.
- ▶ Chapter 3.0, "Regulatory Setting," presents an overview of existing government requirements affecting OWTS, representative requirements of Regional Water Boards and selected local governments that are already in effect, a comparison of those representative requirements to proposed State Water Board regulations, and an overview of land use planning and environmental protection requirements.
- ▶ Chapter 4.0, "Environmental Analysis," includes sections on each of the three environmental issue areas that may be significantly affected as a result of the regulations and are analyzed in detail in this EIR. For each issue area (e.g., water quality and public health), the section describes the existing environmental setting and regulatory framework, describes a range of representative conditions, presents thresholds for determining the significance of impacts, evaluates the environmental impacts associated with implementing the project,

identifies mitigation for any significant or potentially significant impacts, and identifies the level of significance following implementation of the mitigation. The topics addressed in Chapter 4.0 are water quality and public health (which includes an evaluation of geology and soils and a detailed discussion of hydrologic impacts, because of the close relationship between, soil, hydrology, and water quality in OWTS function and treatment), biological resources (primarily aquatic resources), and land use.

- ▶ Chapter 5.0, “Summary of Fiscal and Economic Analysis of the Proposed Project,” describes the fiscal and economic setting related to OWTS in the state, including the representative costs of designing, installing, and maintaining OWTS; identifies the economic impact of implementing the project; describes programs and financing sources that could be used to offset some of the OWTS-related costs; and describes the fiscal impacts and indirect changes in public services related to implementing the project.
- ▶ Chapter 6.0, “Alternatives Analysis,” describes alternatives to the proposed project, including two no-project alternatives; identifies the environmental and the fiscal and economic impacts of each; and identifies the environmentally superior alternative. Alternatives that have been proposed and rejected from further consideration are also identified in the chapter, along with the reasons for their rejection.
- ▶ Chapter 7.0, “Other Statutory Requirements,” presents a discussion of cumulative impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area; discusses the potential for growth-inducing impacts; discloses the significant and unavoidable impacts identified in the environmental impact analysis; and describes the significant and irreversible environmental changes associated with implementing the project.
- ▶ Chapter 8.0, “References,” identifies published references and other sources of information used to prepare the EIR, including agencies and individuals consulted during the EIR preparation process and Web resources.
- ▶ Chapter 9.0, “List of Preparers,” identifies the persons involved with preparation of this EIR.
- ▶ The appendices include relevant sections of the California Water Code; the proposed OWTS regulations; scoping materials, including the NOP/IS prepared for the project and comments received on the NOP/IS; and technical information used to prepare the environmental impact analysis.

A list of acronyms and other abbreviations is included at the end of the table of contents to provide the reader with definitions of the abbreviations used in this DEIR.

1.6 POTENTIAL EFFECTS NOT ANALYZED IN DETAIL

The NOP/IS prepared in 2005 describes the general nature of the project’s impacts in each of the environmental issue areas. As described briefly in the IS and in more detail in the introduction to Chapter 4.0, “Environmental Analysis,” the proposed project is the implementation of the statewide waiver and the statewide regulations addressing the siting, construction, operation, monitoring, and maintenance of septic systems throughout the state. The project does not change the ordinances or requirements now being implemented by local agencies to review land use decisions, including siting of residences and businesses with septic systems, where the existing regulations are more protective of water quality and public health. Typical review processes for such decisions may include approval of an environmental document (categorical exemption, negative declaration, or EIR) that identifies, when relevant:

- ▶ required mitigation measures to address significant environmental impacts and the accompanying mitigation monitoring and any reporting plans,
- ▶ approval of a development project with associated conditions of approval, and

- ▶ standard best management practices for construction and stormwater treatment.

At the site-specific level, local agencies typically enforce local ordinances relating to siting requirements and site inspections, setbacks, and construction practices. The proposed statewide regulations would not affect whether land uses (which may use OWTS for wastewater treatment) would be allowed by local agencies, nor would the regulations affect how land uses would be constructed (except that OWTS would need to meet certain standards). Environmental impacts from developing land would occur irrespective of these regulations; therefore, environmental impacts associated with development of projects with OWTS are not addressed, except to the extent that these proposed regulations and waivers would cause certain environmental impacts. As a result, implementing the proposed project either would have no impact or would have a less-than-significant impact on issue areas associated with overall land development. These issues (detailed in the following paragraphs) are not analyzed further in Chapter 4.0, “Environmental Analysis.”

The proposed project includes implementation of both statewide OWTS regulations and a statewide waiver. Local agencies would have the option of implementing either or both parts of the project. Because the waiver essentially contains the same provisions as do the draft regulations (Appendix B), implementing either part of the project or both together would result in identical impacts on the environment.

1.6.1 AESTHETICS

Because the proposed regulations require that under certain conditions, an OWTS with supplemental treatment components must be used instead of a conventional OWTS to ensure sufficient treatment of effluent, implementing the proposed project could cause a gradual shift toward the use of more systems with supplemental treatment components rather than conventional OWTS. Such systems could be installed in a variety of settings in many areas of California, including scenic areas. As with conventional OWTS, most elements of OWTS with supplemental treatment components are located underground. Although some systems have above-grade components, these elements have a relatively low profile (generally consisting of aboveground piping, tanks, visual alarms, or mounds of soil no more than a few feet high) and are small relative to the residences or commercial establishments that they accompany. They also are typically covered with soil and vegetation following a relatively short construction period. Furthermore, installation of new OWTS is associated primarily with new building permits for residences and small businesses or replacement of failing systems. Where OWTS would be located in scenic areas, they would be associated with other permitted structures. Siting criteria of the local authority would continue to help establish appropriate locations for new structures or modifications to existing structures, including the installation of treatment systems, and would address, on a site-specific basis, the potential for systems to affect designated scenic vistas or resources. Therefore, the impact of the proposed project on scenic vistas and scenic resources would be less than significant.

Aside from small sources associated with visual alarms, permanent sources of external lighting are not a feature of OWTS, and operation of OWTS would not generate new sources of light or glare. Thus, the proposed project would not create a new source of light and glare.

1.6.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Following implementation of the proposed project, more OWTS with supplemental treatment components could be installed on a wide variety of soil types throughout the state, including areas that could be categorized under the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. However, the proposed project would not be expected to increase the number of OWTS that would be placed on farmland, nor would it meaningfully (if at all) alter the amount of farmland converted for use to OWTS-related uses. Therefore, the potential impacts of the proposed project on such farmland are considered less than significant.

Implementation of the proposed project would not affect zoning designations established by local land use jurisdictions. The proposed regulations do not address the types of land uses for which OWTS are appropriate; rather, they establish consistent standards for the functioning (i.e., construction, operation, and maintenance) of OWTS in whatever locations the local agency or Regional Water Board chooses to approve them. Under existing conditions, most jurisdictions allow OWTS in conjunction with residences in agricultural areas, including properties with Williamson Act contracts; this situation would not change under the proposed statewide OWTS regulations. Therefore, the project would have no impact on agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contracts.

1.6.3 AIR QUALITY

As described elsewhere in this DEIR, implementing the proposed project would not be expected to increase the number of OWTS that would be constructed in the future, nor would it meaningfully, if at all, alter the amount of land converted to OWTS-related uses. Furthermore, the operation of OWTS does not generate criteria pollutants specific to air quality. For these reasons, implementing the proposed project would not affect applicable air quality plans, violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors), or expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The proposed regulations also contain specific requirements for maintenance and repair of faulty systems. Odors could occur for brief periods in areas immediately surrounding OWTS when septic tank cleanout operations are in progress, but this condition is present under existing conditions. This impact is considered less than significant. Global climate change and the emission of greenhouse gases are global, cumulative issues; the potential for the proposed statewide regulations to affect them is discussed in Chapter 7.0, “Other Statutory Requirements.”

1.6.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Implementing the proposed project would not be expected to increase the number of OWTS that would be constructed in the future, nor would it meaningfully (if at all) alter the processes of local agencies in addressing construction of OWTS or the structures that they accompany or the amount of land converted to OWTS-related uses. Therefore, the potential impacts of the proposed project on any type of cultural resource, including historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources, are considered less than significant.

1.6.5 MINERAL RESOURCES

Although OWTS are installed in a wide variety of rock formations and geologic conditions statewide, implementing the proposed project would not be expected to increase the number of OWTS that would be constructed in the future, nor would it meaningfully, if at all, alter the amount of land converted to OWTS-related uses. In addition, siting criteria of the local agencies would continue to establish appropriate locations for installation of treatment systems and would address, on a site-specific basis, any potential for a system to result in loss of availability of mineral resources. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant. Impacts associated with geology and soils are discussed and evaluated in Section 4.1, “Water Quality and Public Health.”

1.6.6 NOISE

Implementing the proposed project would not be expected to increase the number of OWTS that would be constructed in the future, nor would it meaningfully, if at all, alter the amount of land converted to OWTS-related uses. Operation and maintenance of OWTS are not typically noise-producing activities. OWTS with supplemental treatment components may include mechanical components that produce a low level of noise during operation. Because OWTS are generally installed near residences and small commercial enterprises, the sound levels produced by the system are designed to be minimal. Maintenance activities, such as pumping of septic tanks,

could involve higher levels of noise disturbance, but these activities are temporary and occur only periodically (in the case of pumping, once every 5–10 years). Similarly, operation and maintenance of OWTS would generate only minimal groundborne vibration or noise levels. For these reasons, the proposed project is considered to have a less-than-significant noise impact.

In addition, installation, operation, and maintenance of OWTS under the proposed project would not involve any activities that could specifically expose people residing or working nearby to excessive noise levels; construction and installation activities would continue to be controlled by noise ordinances of the local agencies. No impact would result.

1.6.7 PUBLIC SERVICES

OWTS are privately owned facilities operated by individual homeowners or small businesses. These systems do not require fire or police protection, educational services, or recreational services to construct, operate, or maintain them. Thus, no impacts would occur related to these types of services.

As discussed in Chapter 5.0, “Summary of Fiscal and Economic Analysis of the Proposed Project,” implementing the proposed project is not anticipated to increase the staffing requirements of the State Water Board, Regional Water Boards, or local agencies. Any staffing increases that may result would be minimal and would not be large enough to require the construction of new facilities. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

1.6.8 RECREATION

Installation of OWTS generally occurs in rural areas as part of new home or small business construction. In general, OWTS are designed for the purpose of treating domestic wastewater but are occasionally constructed in connection with developed recreational facilities. The proposed regulations would not be expected to increase the pattern or frequency of this use of septic systems. For this reason, implementing the proposed project would have no impact on the use of recreational facilities.

1.6.9 TRAFFIC

OWTS are generally installed in rural areas where traffic loads are relatively light; in nearly all circumstances, urban areas are served by municipal wastewater treatment plants, rather than by OWTS. Construction activities associated with installation of an OWTS would generally include use of a backhoe, a dump truck, and possibly one additional piece of construction equipment operating for less than 1 week. Operation and maintenance activities would include an increase in septic tank inspections and perhaps pumping, but related vehicle trips would occur infrequently (once every 5 years for inspections) and on roads where traffic loads are relatively light. Implementing the proposed project would not be expected to increase the number of OWTS that would be constructed in the future, nor would it meaningfully (if at all) alter the amount of land converted to OWTS-related uses. For these reasons, the proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact on traffic conditions. In addition, installation of OWTS would have no impact on air traffic patterns.

All OWTS are subject to local codes, and most local codes do not allow OWTS to be installed directly adjacent to a roadway. Accordingly, implementing the proposed project would have no impact on traffic hazards beyond that taking place under existing conditions. Therefore, the proposed project would likely not affect traffic hazards through introduction of a hazardous design feature or incompatible uses.

Because the proposed project would not be expected to increase the number of OWTS installed over time, OWTS-related traffic patterns or emergency access to either the site of a treatment system or surrounding areas would likely not be affected.

As stated above, OWTS-related construction and maintenance activities could increase slightly with implementation of the proposed project, but these activities would involve a minimal number of workers in rural areas for brief periods. This potential impact would be less than significant.

For the reasons described above, and because alternative transportation systems are typically found in more urbanized areas than those where OWTS are typically found, implementation of the proposed project would likely have no impact on alternative transportation systems.

1.6.10 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

The proposed project addresses installation, operation, and maintenance of OWTS systems, which operate independently of any storm drainage system that may be present in a community. Impacts on storm water drainage facilities are not expected. The project would have no effect on water entitlements or water supply. No impact is expected relating to wastewater treatment capacity because OWTS operate independently of the centralized wastewater treatment facilities operated by treatment providers. The proposed project would not change the manner in which solid waste is created, handled, or disposed of; thus, there is no reason to believe the proposed project would change how solid waste handling and disposal regulations are complied with. OWTS are a form of wastewater treatment system and, as such, are a public service system. The proposed project would affect water quality through the treatment of septic tank effluent; this impact is addressed in relation to its water quality effects in Section 4.1, “Water Quality and Public Health.” Potential impacts relating to expansion of community service systems, sewer systems, and landfills are addressed in Section 7.2, “Growth-Inducing Impacts.”

1.7 AGENCIES THAT MAY USE THIS DOCUMENT

Regional Water Boards and local agencies, including counties and cities, may use the information provided in this EIR to assist them in assessing the environmental impacts of amending their basin plans or modifying local ordinances to conform to the proposed regulations.

1.8 AREAS OF CONTROVERSY AND ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED

A notice of preparation/initial study (NOP/IS) for the proposed project was circulated to agencies and the public beginning on June 8, 2005, for a 60-day review period that concluded on August 8, 2005. A series of scoping meetings was held to inform agencies and the public about the proposed project and to provide opportunity for public comment on the NOP and issues to be evaluated in the EIR. Between July 14 and 21, 2005, five public meetings were held, in Riverside, Santa Rosa, Malibu, Sacramento, and Redding. The NOP/IS and comments received on the NOP/IS are included in Appendix C of this draft EIR. Many of the issues that were raised during the scoping period were taken into account as the regulations were subsequently refined.

Based on the comments received on the NOP/IS in written responses and during the scoping meetings, the areas of controversy regarding the proposed project pertain to the following topics:

- ▶ Approach to the regulations—the need to identify an appropriate level of protection for public health and groundwater quality, the need for consistent statewide regulations
- ▶ Monitoring—questions about the need for and applicability of domestic well monitoring
- ▶ Costs—concerns about the costs of increasing the level of treatment where required because of siting constraints compared to benefits received by property owners, the increased cost to develop property, and the increased cost for local agencies of enforcing the regulations

- ▶ Section 303(d)-listed waters—requests for additional detail about proposed setbacks, concerns about effects on people living near impaired water bodies, the costs of increasing the level of treatment
- ▶ Regulatory effects—additional workload for Regional Water Board and/or local agency staff that cannot be accommodated within existing budgets, concerns about impairing the ability of local agencies to protect water quality, need to identify circumstances for allowing variances, differences between regulations and California Plumbing Code
- ▶ Property development—concerns about whether siting requirements will limit property development

These issues are addressed in the appropriate analytical sections of this EIR as information is available.

1.9 PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

This DEIR is being circulated to local, state, and federal agencies involved with the project and is being made available to interested organizations and individuals who may wish to review and comment on the report. The public review period begins on November 7, 2008, and ends on February 9, 2008. During that period, written comments on the environmental document may be sent to the State Water Board at the following address:

Todd Thompson, P.E., Program Manager
 State Water Resources Control Board
 Division of Water Quality
 P.O. Box 2231
 Sacramento, CA 95812-2231
 e-mail: ab885@waterboards.ca.gov

Copies of the DEIR can be reviewed at the following locations:

State Water Resources Control Board
 1001 I Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 916/341-5250

The DEIR is available on the State Water Board's Web site at
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/septic_tanks/.

The DEIR has been sent to and is available at the following libraries:

San Diego Public Library 820 E Street San Diego, CA 92101-6478	Orange County Public Library 1501 E. St. Andrew Place Santa Ana, CA 92705
Los Angeles Public Library 630 West 5th Street Los Angeles, CA 90071	Fresno County Public Library 2420 Mariposa Street Fresno, CA 93721
Riverside Central Library 3711 Central Avenue Riverside, CA 92506	Riverside County Library Palm Desert Branch 73-300 Fred Waring Drive Palm Desert, CA 92260-4434
Palmdale City Library 700 East Palmdale Boulevard Palmdale, CA 93550	Norman Feldheym Central Library 555 West 6th Street San Bernardino, CA 92410

Kern County Library 701 Truxton Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301	Modesto-Stanislaus Central Library 1500 I Street Modesto, CA 95354
San Francisco Public Library Stegner Environmental Center/Civic Center 100 Larkin Street San Francisco, CA 94102	Sacramento Central Library 828 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814
Fairfield-Suisun Community Library 1150 Kentucky Street Fairfield, CA 94533	Central Sonoma County Library Third and E Street Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Shasta County Library 1100 Parkview Avenue Redding, CA 96001	Humboldt County Library 1313 Third Street Eureka, CA 95501
Salinas Public Library 350 Lincoln Avenue Salinas, CA 93901	San Luis Obispo City-County Library P.O. Box 8107 995 Palm Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

During the public review period on the DEIR, a series of meetings will be held to inform agencies and the public about the proposed project and to provide additional opportunities for public comment on the DEIR. The public meetings are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

Date	City	Address	Time
Monday, December 8, 2008	Mariposa	Mariposa County Board of Supervisors Chamber 5100 Bullion Street	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 9, 2008	San Andreas	Calaveras County Board of Supervisors Chamber 891 Mountain Ranch Road	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 10, 2008	Nevada City	Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chamber Eric W. Rood Administrative Center 950 Maidu Avenue	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 11, 2008	Susanville	Lassen County Fairground, Jenson Hall 195 Russell Avenue	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 18, 2008	Redding	Shasta County Board of Supervisors Chamber 1450 Court Street	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 13, 2009	Bishop	Tri-County Fairground Sierra Street at Fair Drive	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 14, 2009	Riverside	Riverside County Supervisors Chamber 4080 Lemon Street	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 15, 2009	Malibu	Malibu High School 30215 Morning View Drive	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 22, 2009	Fresno	Fresno Unified School District Board Chamber 2309 Tulare Street	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 27, 2009	Santa Rosa	Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, Merlot Theatre 50 Mark West Springs Road	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 28, 2009	Eureka	Eureka High School Auditorium 1915 J Street	7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 9, 2009	Sacramento	Cal EPA Building, Byron Sher Auditorium 1001 I Street	1:30 p.m.

Following the close of the public comment period, the State Water Board will prepare a final EIR (FEIR) that provides responses to comments on environmental issues addressed in the DEIR. Proposed responses to comments will be circulated to public agencies for a 10-day review period. A public hearing on the FEIR will be held by the State Water Board in the hearing room at the California Environmental Protection Agency building, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California. Public comments on the FEIR will be accepted at this hearing before the State Water Board decides whether to certify the EIR and approve the proposed project.